(b) what is this formula and what is the nature of this agreement;

(c) what is the rationale on which this agreement is based; and

(d) what is the total financial burdon because of this agreement on the Government and on the PSUs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) The Government have not signed any agreement with the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) on 16th March, 1993 for the new formula of Industrial D.A. linkage with respect to Public Sector employees. However, based on the recommendations of the tripartite Committee on Industrial Dearness Allowance, Government announced its decision on 16th March, 1993 to enhance the rate of Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) payable to the employees of the Central Public Sector Enterprises, to whom Industrial Dearness Allowance is applicable, from Rs. 1.65 fixed on 1-4-1983 to Rs. 2.00 per point increase, linked to the All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) 800 points, with effect from 1-1-1989. Arrears of Industrial Dearness Allowance due for the period from 1-1-1989 to 31-12-1991 would be credited to the Provident Fund of the employees to the extent of 50%, the balance 50% being disbursed in cash. It is estimated that over 20 lakh employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises shall stand to benefit on account of this measure. The expenditure on account of enhancing the Industrial Dearness Allowance rate is estimated at Rs. 546.85 crores for the years 1989 to 1992.

POOR PERFORMANCE OF FALTA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE

*437. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of Falta Export Processing Zone out of the four EPZs in the country was the lowest;

(b) whether the factors responsible therefor have been identified; and

(c) if so, what are the details and the corrective steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The export performance upto 1991-92 of the Falta EPZ is comparable to that of the Cochin Zone also approved in 1983. Performance of the zone has however, been adversely affected in the current year mainly on account of dislocation of exports to the Rupee Payment Areas. With recent improvements in the EPZ scheme, a greater number of new units are likely to be established in the zone.

DECREASE IN TRADE GAP

*438. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether removal of restrictions on import of goods has resulted in commensurable increase in exports from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IMF aids influenced the removal of restrictions on imports;

(d) whether trade gap decreased as a result of such removal of restrictions on imports; and

(e) what is the present quantum of trade gap ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) During April–January 1992-93, exports have increased by 2.2% compared to increase of 14.61% of imports over the corresponding period of 1991-92. Increase in imports in April–January 1992-93 appears large as compared to April–January 1991-92 owing to severe import compression in 1991-92. As compared to April–January 1990-91, imports in April–January 1992-93 have declined by 9.84%.

(c) No, Sir.